

**What is claimed is:**

1. Apparatus for making a plurality of spherical product comprising:
  - a base;
  - a tray support platform mounted on said base for tethered buffeted motion with respect to said base;
  - a tray having an upper friction surface, for mounting on, and being held to, said tray support platform; and
  - a grid comprising a plurality of compartments defined by a plurality of intersecting walls, said grid having an open bottom, said grid being supported on said tray.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said tray support platform is of general "H"-shape with two arms and a connecting body, the ends of said arms including upright flanges thereon.
3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said connecting body is pivotally-secured near each end thereof adjacent said arms to a bearing assembly, thereby to provide said tethering.
4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein each said bearing assembly comprises a pair of transversely-spaced-apart bearings, one said bearing being rotationally mounted on said base, and the other said bearing being floating, said bearing assemblies being connected to one another by an associated pair of connecting rods, said body being pivotally-secured to an associated one of said floating bearings by means of an associated pivot shaft.
5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said tray is a rectangular tray including a perimetral upstanding flange.
6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said grid is of a complementary rectangular shape to fit on said tray, and comprises an array of rectangular compartments.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein each compartment of said array of compartment is defined by respective four walls of equal heights.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said walls are tapered.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said tapered walls provide a larger area at the bottom of the grid than at the top of the grid.

10. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said perimetral upstanding flanges of said tray are adjustable in height, thereby to control the thickness of a sheet of deformable material placed therein, which in turn controls the diameter of the spherical bodies.

11. A method for forming a plurality of spherical products from a deformable material comprising the steps of:

providing a base;

providing a tethered support on said base, said tethered support being configured to be movable in a buffeted motion;

providing a tray having an upper non-stick surface on said tethered support;

placing a sheet of deformable material on said tray;

pressing an open grid comprising a plurality of compartments defined by a plurality of intersecting walls into said sheet of deformable material until the bottom thereof contacts the upper surface of said tray; and

inducing a buffeted motion of said tray on said tethered support until said deformable material is transformed into a plurality of spherical articles.

12. The method of claim 11, which comprised selecting said deformable material from the group consisting of ground meat, minced meat, minced fish paste, vegetable pastes, mashed potatoes, ragout, ground beef, ground port, ground turkey, ground chicken and dough.

13. The method claim 11, which comprises providing said deformable material as a sheet of ground meat, thereby to provide a plurality of meat balls.

14. The method of claim 11, which comprise carrying out said buffed motion for at least about 30 to about 60 seconds.
15. The method of claims 11, which comprises controlling the thickness of said sheet of deformable material, thereby to control the diameter of said spherical products.